

pelican

The magazine of Corpus Christi College Cambridge



Spotlight on
Research Fellows

Professor Christopher
Howe research into
greenhouse gasses

Nicholas Bacon Fund
makes first awards

Yazeed Said – from
Nazareth to Cambridge



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Master's Introduction



Welcome to this new edition of *The Pelican*. I think you will find much that's really interesting in it – showing the vibrant and confident spirit alive in Corpus. I hope you will share my enthusiasm for the articles by our Research Fellows Juliet Foster, Michael Sutherland and Ben Colburn. All three have explained some fascinating aspects of their specialised subjects, in a way that will appeal to all readers – not just those versed in the intricacies of psychology, quantum physics or philosophy.

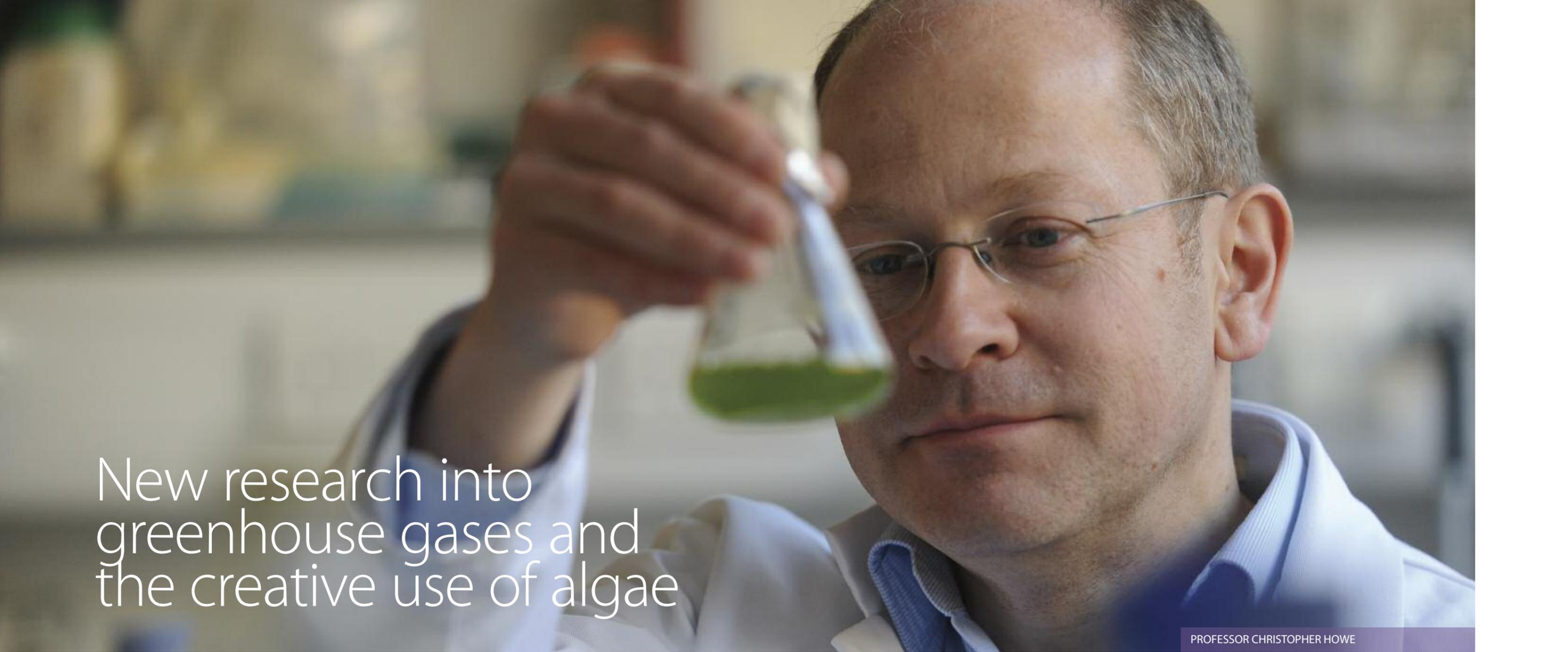
I have now marked 6 months as Master. I have been encouraged by the achievements of many members of the College, both senior and junior, and greatly enjoyed getting to know a good number of them. Despite the growing demands of the Tripos and the very high standards required of our graduate students, music, sport and other activities flourish: the Bene't Club keeps up a string of brilliant concerts, a Corpus 2nd-year and a non-Corpus member of our choir is starring in the 800 celebration ADC production of *Guys and Dolls*, and for a college of our size we collect a respectable number of blues and half-blues.

A shadow was cast over the College by the tragic death in January of David Thompson, one of our third-year geography students. It was encouraging to see how David's friends, and Fellows, staff and students of the whole College, provided comfort to each other in this time of sorrow. David's family came over from Northern Ireland and attended a memorial service, in a packed Chapel, to celebrate David's short life and to mourn for his keenly felt loss.

Running a college in Cambridge in the current economic climate is not easy. I should like to pay tribute to Paul Warren, the Bursar, and all the Fellows and College staff for the efforts they are making to introduce greater efficiencies in order to reduce the deficit in Corpus's operational budget, and to make more effective use of the assets we have. The Governing Body has given new impetus to the Investment Advisory Committee and to the Development Committee, by bringing in Old Members to lend us their expertise. In the Development area we are making special efforts to improve our contact with the wider network of Old Members, for example through the telephone campaign which will be recently completed by the time you read this. We plan by these and other means to set the College on a sure footing for exciting progress in the second half of our seventh century.


 Stuart Laing





New research into greenhouse gases and the creative use of algae

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER HOWE

CORPUS SCIENTISTS LED BY PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER HOWE HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING INTO TWO HIGHLY TOPICAL AREAS; THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND POTENTIAL NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY.

In the first study, which was recently reported in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Corpus Fellow Professor Chris Howe and colleagues show that contrary to earlier reports, plants are not guilty of creating tens of millions of tonnes of the potent greenhouse gas methane. The research shows that although plants can take up methane dissolved in water through their roots and emit it through their leaves, they do not make methane themselves under normal conditions.

The study was led by Chris Howe, whose work is based in the Biochemistry Department at Cambridge and Dr Ellen Nisbet

(formerly a post-doc in Chris Howe's lab and now at the University of South Australia) and by Professor Euan Nisbet (father of Dr Ellen Nisbet) and colleagues at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The study contradicts a report published in 2006 claiming that plants make large quantities of methane themselves. Professor Howe and Dr Nisbet's study shows that, although plants can emit methane, it is actually made by bacteria in the soil and recycled through plant tissues. Plants are therefore not guilty of making huge quantities of this potent greenhouse gas, and the finger is pointed at soil bacteria.

Commenting on the study, Dr Ellen Nisbet said; 'It is a relief to know that plants are not guilty. Forests are immensely precious. Growing plants remove enormous amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each day through photosynthesis: carbon dioxide that would otherwise be causing global warming.'

Professor Howe said 'Although this identifies the source of a natural contribution to greenhouse gases, the imbalance that causes global warming comes from human activities that increase the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.'

Professor Euan Nisbet who leads the group at Royal Holloway, added that cutting anthropogenic emissions of methane is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to reduce greenhouse warming.

In a separate venture, Chris Howe and another Corpus Fellow, Professor Alison Smith, have formed the Algal Bioenergy Consortium, together with former Corpus Research Fellow Dr Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley and other interested colleagues. The consortium is exploring how algae might be used as new energy sources. Algae have many benefits over plants as sources of energy production; they do not take up prime agricultural land and they give high yields, for example. They could be used in a number of positive ways such as sequestering carbon dioxide from flue gases of industrial works, or in waste water treatment plants. The potential of algae as a source of energy is considerable and the consortium, which was formed eighteen months ago, is applying for research grants to explore further the potential benefits. Chris Howe said "the potential benefits of using algae are great, but so are the challenges. We are trying to use our expertise to overcome some of those challenges."

“I AM INTERESTED IN HOW
PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH A
MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM
UNDERSTAND MENTAL
HEALTH AND ILLNESS”

Examining the client's experience of mental health and illness

JULIET FOSTER, RESEARCH FELLOW IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

I was elected to a Research Fellowship in Social Psychology at Corpus in October 2001. Before this, I had undertaken both my PhD and BA in the College, under the supervision and direction of Dr Gerard Duveen. After I graduated with my B.A. in 1996, I spent two years in London, first working as a mental health support worker, and then taking an MSc in Social Psychology at the London School of Economics. I returned to Corpus, and to the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (now the Faculty of Politics, Psychology, Sociology and International Studies - PPSIS) in 1998, to study the representations of mental health problems held by clients of the mental health services for my PhD.

Broadly, my research focuses in the main on examining the different ways in which mental ill health is represented and discussed by different groups within society, and the consequences of this. My recent book, *Journeys Through Mental Illness: clients' experiences and understandings of mental distress* (Palgrave, 2007) is a synthesis and summary of much of the work I have done over the past ten years. In particular, I am interested in how people diagnosed with a mental health problem understand mental health and illness, and how this affects their interaction with the mental health services, with professionals and with others.

This has been a relatively under-researched topic until recently; all too often there has been an assumption that clients and users of the mental health services 'lack insight' into every aspect of their lives and well-being, and that any responses they might give will be the result of their psychopathology, and therefore irrelevant, or even misleading. This assumption is grounded in a long history of seeing people with madness or mental health problems as 'Other', and of separating them physically and psychologically from the rest of society. On the basis of my own research, which has involved ethnographic work and interviews in different mental health services, as well as analysis of material written in mental health service user

organisation newsletters, I argue that a diagnosis with a mental health problem does not mean that an individual is incapable of understanding, or of formulating ideas and strategies for coping. On the contrary, clients communally make sense of their experiences in the smoking rooms and lounges of mental health services, and in the context of user groups and organisations; in doing so they construct alternative forms of understanding about the nature and experience of mental ill health, about helpful and unhelpful treatment, and about ways of developing their own journeys through mental ill health. These understandings may clash with and contradict professional ideas about mental ill health, and this has important consequences for a client's engagement with mental health services, and for their journey towards recovery. Theoretically, I draw on a number of theories within social and cultural psychology, especially the theory of social representations, first proposed by Serge Moscovici in the 1960s, and introduced to me as an undergraduate by Dr Gerard Duveen: the emphasis of this theory is on considering the development and elaboration of common sense understandings in their social contexts, and on the way in which individuals within a social group make sense of the world around them. As a result of this interest, I have collaborated with a number of colleagues in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

I have also recently completed two other projects that examine the ways in which understandings and representations about mental health problems are maintained and elaborated within wider society. The first analysed the ways in which newspaper media presented the (then) proposed changes to the Mental Health Act, which came into effect in July 2007. These proposals provoked a negative reaction from most interest groups, and led to the establishment of an unprecedented coalition of users, professionals, carers, lawyers and others who protested about the proposed changes.



I WILL BE TAKING OVER AS SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER FROM EASTER TERM

Interestingly, considering that the media is usually associated with a sensationalised approach to mental illness that centres on ideas of violence and unpredictability, the newspaper media were, in general, sympathetic to the protesters' cause, and discussed the disadvantages of what was portrayed as overly repressive and alarmist legislation. However, closer analysis of the text and narratives revealed more implicit representations, some that continued to subtly twin mental illness and violence through the choice of words or stories used in illustration, and another representation that centred on portraying people with a mental health problem as pitiful and passive, something that is very much at odds with discussion within the mental health service user movement and elsewhere that aims to challenge the stigma associated with mental illness.

Secondly, I have just finished a study of the way that psychiatric and non-psychiatric medication is advertised in professional journals, the results of which will be published in the *Journal of Mental Health* later this year. Here, through a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the size and content of images and text used in medication advertisements, I found systematic differences between the messages that are conveyed in adverts for psychiatric and non-psychiatric medication: in particular, advertisements for psychiatric medication used less text than advertisements for non-psychiatric medication, and the text rarely contained specific information about the medication (e.g. success rates, research trials), focusing instead on narratives that highlighted the distress and deviance of the patient. The images used also differed significantly: those used in advertisements for psychiatric medication were much less likely to be neutral

images, and focused more on chaotic, often dark images: where images of individuals were used, these focused on the healthy, employed and active patient in advertisements for non-psychiatric medication, and on the ill, passive and deviant patient in advertisements for psychiatric medication. The implications of such differences are important: it is questionable how successful campaigns to destigmatise mental health problems can be when sections of the health services clearly maintain a distinction between mental ill health and other forms of ill health in such negative terms; there are also worrying implications given current debates surrounding allowing pharmaceutical companies greater freedom to advertise directly to consumers and patients.

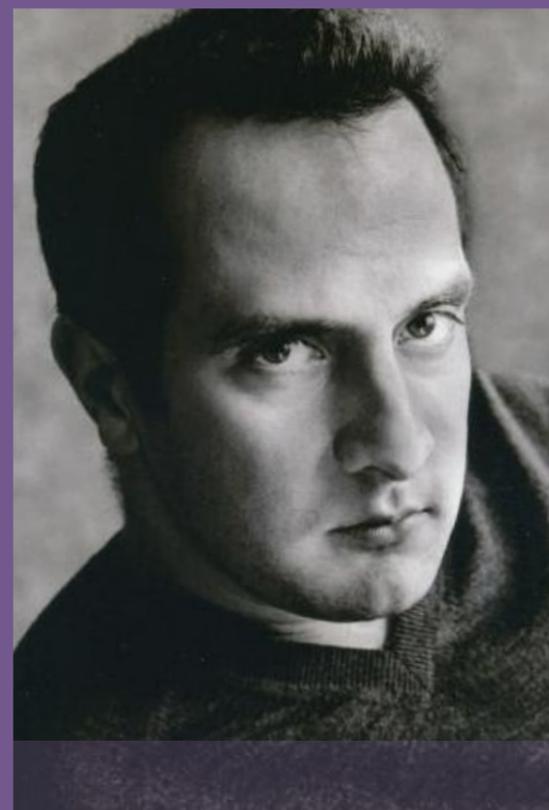
Dr Gerard Duveen

I am one of the many people who benefited enormously from Gerard Duveen's teaching and mentoring, both as an undergraduate, postgraduate and then colleague. As a result of his sad and premature death in November, I have recently taken over as Director of Studies to undergraduate students reading SPS, and PPS (as the degree has recently become known) in the College. As part of this, I have begun to organise meetings of the *Gerard Duveen Social Sciences Society* to which I have invited a variety of people to speak on topics relating to Politics, Psychology and Sociology. These have been very successful, and have provided both undergraduates and postgraduates within the College with a useful and informal forum in which to discuss and develop their ideas. I have always enjoyed teaching at undergraduate level, and have recently extended this with more postgraduate teaching. Through the supervision system, Cambridge offers its teaching staff a rare opportunity to engage with students over time, building on what is taught in lectures, and enabling them to fulfil their full intellectual potential: I see this as a particular privilege of this environment.

Schools Liaison Officer

In addition to my research, supervising and some lecturing within the Faculty, I also play an active role in the Tutorial side of the College. I have been an undergraduate Tutor since 2007, and am looking forward to taking on responsibilities once again in the Admissions Office. I was acting Tutor for Admissions in 2002-2003, and, from Easter term this year I will take over from Dr Barrie Fleet as Schools Liaison Officer, building on and developing Corpus' very successful programme of events for widening participation. This will allow me to develop my interests in the transition between secondary and higher education, and I look forward to the new challenges that it will bring.

Tarik O'Regan receives Grammy nominations



Tarik O'Regan, a former student at Corpus Christi and current Fellow Commoner at Trinity College, received two nominations for awards at this year's Grammy Awards.

His composition 'Threshold of Night', performed by Conspirare and conducted by Conspirare founder Craig Hella Johnson was nominated in the 'Best Classical Album' and Best Choral Album categories. His work, 'Scattered Rhymes' also featured as part of Robina G Young's 'Producer of the Year' portfolio.

'Threshold of Night' is a piece for strings and voices whose combinations reflect the plurality of today's urban environment. The album was named 'record of the month' by *Stereophile Magazine* and in its review the BBC described Tarik's music as "striking, intense, captivating".

On discovering his nominations, Tarik commented: "I'm happy that it's a disc of 'contemporary' classical compositions which has been recognised in the Classical Album of the Year category, alongside Schoenberg and Sibelius.

At a time when we have more music available at our fingertips than at any other point in our history, it's very important to recognise that classical composers are still felt to be contemporary and that contemporary popular musicians (rock bands, for example) are still deemed to be composers. The Grammy Awards is the one place where these disparate strands of the music industry are tied together."

The earliest piece on the disc, 'Care Charmingee Sleepee', was written when he did his MPhil at Corpus Christi College in 1999/2000 under the supervision of Robin Holloway to whom the piece is dedicated.

Following the completion of his MPhil Tarik was appointed Composer in Residence for one year at Corpus. He is now Fellow Commoner at Trinity College in Creative Arts and splits his time between Cambridge and New York.

His compositions have already earned him two British Composer Awards and have been performed internationally by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinonietta, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Researching low temperature quantum phenomena

MICHAEL SUTHERLAND, ROYAL SOCIETY RESEARCH FELLOW IN PHYSICS

I've been a Fellow at Corpus for just over two years, and work in the Cavendish laboratory researching low temperature quantum phenomena in materials. I'm originally from Canada, having been born and educated in Ontario, where I did a BSc, MSc and PhD at the University of Toronto. My doctorate was supervised by Professor Louis Taillefer, a French Canadian physicist who I only recently found out was himself a Corpus graduate student who lived at Leckhampton in the 1980's. A small world indeed!

I'm fortunate to hold a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, which provides funding for young researchers for up to 10 years. Part of the terms of this position is that my teaching and administration responsibilities are reduced, meaning I get to devote most of my time to being at the lab. Corpus has a proud tradition in physics, the former Master G P Thomson was a Nobel laureate, and our students are very strong – it is not uncommon to see a Corpus undergraduate physicist at, or near the top of the natural sciences Tripos. I find the supervision work with students at the College incredibly stimulating.

THE STUDY OF ELECTRONS CONFINED WITHIN A LATTICE OF ATOMS HAS A LONG HISTORY

One of my favourite activities at Corpus is helping to organize the yearly 'estimation evenings' for the physicists. The aim of the night is to solve physics problems to an accuracy of within an order of magnitude, using nothing but a pen and paper. No

textbooks, calculators, formula sheets etc. are allowed, just clever thinking and physical intuition. Teams are made up of undergraduates, postgraduates and Fellows, and the discussions can get quite intense. Some examples from recent years are a) estimate the maximum allowable mass of a six-legged water strider and b) estimate the amount the sea level would rise if the entire world's population were to simultaneously go for a swim. Email your answers if you feel challenged to m1s41@cam.ac.uk. We will publish them on the College website and unless you ask to be anonymous, we'll list the names of all those who come up with the correct answers.

At the Cavendish I run a small group of graduate students and postdocs that specialize in experiments which measure the properties of electrons in crystalline materials cooled to near absolute zero. The study of electrons confined within a lattice of atoms has a long history - fundamental research in the area yielded the theoretical foundation for the quantum theory of solids, where electrons are treated as waves instead of particles. Through much of the 20th century this theory was utilized with great success to engineer the materials used in creating consumer electronics. The circuits found in computers, iPods and mobile phones are for instance constructed from small metal wires connecting semiconductor transistors – elements whose function can only be fully understood using quantum theory. The key to the success of this theory is the assumption that electrons within a material behave more or less independently; we can think of their effects on each other as merely a weak perturbation on the independent electron case.





WHAT HAPPENS TO THE QUANTUM THEORY OF SOLIDS WHEN ELECTRONS IN A CRYSTAL LATTICE ARE FORCED TO INTERACT STRONGLY?

The fact that this crude approximation works at all is rather remarkable, since there are as many electrons confined within a single cubic centimeter of a metal as there are stars in the entire universe. Despite the remarkable success of this simple picture, an increasingly large number of materials have been discovered in which the assumption of nearly independent electrons appears to break down. The challenge now facing physicists in my field is how does one move beyond this approximation? What happens to the quantum theory of solids when electrons in a crystal lattice are forced to interact strongly? What new states of matter do these 'correlated electrons' produce in materials, and what new properties do such materials exhibit? The answers to these questions promise not only to expand our knowledge of fundamental physics, but also offer the opportunity to develop and engineer devices of the future, using materials exhibiting novel properties arising from strong electron interactions.

One example of a correlated state of matter is a superconductor, a material which can conduct electricity without any resistance provided it is cooled below a threshold temperature (T_c). This means that once an electrical current is set up within a superconductor it will flow forever, with no dissipation of energy. On a microscopic level this state is fascinating, electrons overcome their mutual Coulomb repulsion and form a bound, paired state. On a practical level these materials have already proven useful – they help generate the large, stable magnetic fields essential for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines and for the recently commissioned Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. The one drawback is that T_c is often very low, only a few degrees above absolute zero for most superconductors.

Our group's approach is to study the behaviour of electrons in superconductors and other correlated materials by observing

their motion in very strong magnetic fields at low temperatures. As the magnitude of an applied field is varied, tiny oscillations in the magnetic and transport properties can be observed, and the frequency and amplitude of these oscillations contain a wealth of information about the electrons. We can determine for instance which electron quantum states are full and which are empty, a contour of constant energy in momentum space that is known as the Fermi surface. By looking at the temperature dependence of the oscillations we can also determine how 'heavy' the electrons are, which is governed by how strongly the electrons interact with each other.

Recently I have been interested in a new class of superconductors discovered in 2008 which operate at high temperatures ($T_c \sim 50$ K), yet contain iron. This has surprised many physicists, since it is usually thought that iron compounds favour magnetism, which tends to compete with superconductivity. My group and I have studied how the Fermi surface of one of these iron compounds evolves as pressure is applied by squeezing crystals between two pieces of a diamond-like material. We have completed some of our work at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee, Florida. This institute offers users access to the world's highest magnetic fields, on the order of 45 Tesla, which is about a hundred thousand times more powerful than an everyday fridge magnet. Our goal is to try to understand the complex relationship between magnetism and superconductivity, and whether it is possible to exploit this relationship to engineer materials with even higher T_c 's. There is no physical reason for example why a material with a transition temperature close to room temperature might not be found one day.

One of the aspects of this research that I love is that it is often conducted as part of an international collaborative effort. In the past few years I've flown to Tokyo to grow and characterize samples, performed experiments in Tallahassee and Toulouse, then discussed the results with experts in Toronto. Being a Fellow at Corpus allows me to maintain this flexible research schedule while keeping contact with students and interacting with academics from a variety of disciplines - it is an aspect of the Cambridge system that I value immensely.

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Corpus Within Living Memory

This highly illustrated book, which was published to coincide with the College's 650th anniversary, includes intimate memories, images and reminiscences of everyday life in Corpus Christi from the 1920s to the 1950s and also from more recent times.



"The College is like its Old Court: discreet, unobtrusive, yet at the very pinnacle of excellence," writes a former member of the College. Another member remarked: "My two years are still a vivid splash of sunlight in my memory, after the darkness of school, before the drab routines of my nomadic existence in the army". This would seem to be a true description of the experience of many at Corpus, one of Cambridge's smallest, yet most distinctive colleges.

The University of Cambridge – an 800th Anniversary Portrait

Edited by Peter Pagnamenta, one of Britain's most distinguished documentary producers, this lavishly illustrated, beautifully designed and produced hardback volume traces the University's growth and development from its small beginnings to tomorrow's aspirations. It includes over 600 illustrations and features expert, informative and entertaining contributions from leading Cambridge figures of every generation and offers a vibrant panorama of the past, present and future of a living community.





Defining an autonomy-minded liberal theory

BEN COLBURN, RESEARCH FELLOW IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Being a philosopher is frustratingly like being an artist. That might seem like an odd assertion, given the character of modern analytic philosophy. Many philosophers like to think that our subject is more like a science than an art, and that self-image is borne out if we think about what philosophers spend most of their time doing: drawing conceptual distinctions, dissecting arguments with forensic care, and bringing to bear the tools of formal logic. It's true that there is a part of the philosophical process which is more akin perhaps to the work of a physicist than a poet. However, at its heart philosophy is about ideas. All the rigorous analytic method in the work won't do any good if there's nothing there to analyse. And – for me, at least – generating those ideas is a mysterious and creative process. I can try and put myself in the way of capturing ideas, through reading other people's philosophical work, or by teaching. But the ideas themselves, when they come, seem to come out of the blue. That's wrong, of course. What's actually happening is that my subconscious is getting to work on this raw material and allowing thoughts to resurface when they're in some sort of shape. But it feels exactly like the moment of creative inspiration described by artists: the sudden realization a painter has when she sees how to capture an idea on canvas, or the spark as a sculptor sees the form hidden inside the block of marble. So, like the artist, the philosopher is dependent on these unpredictable sparks of inspiration. And, like the artist, all the hard work is involved in using the technical skills of the craft to turn that inspiration into something worthwhile.

All this rambling introduction is somewhat by way of apology, to make it sound a little less shameful that I've spent the last three years – and will probably spend the next three – thinking about a small handful of ideas, trying to see whether they're any good, how they connect together, and how they might be put to some purpose.

The purpose I have in mind is this: I'm seeking to refine and defend liberalism as a political creed. Liberalism – both philosophically and politically – is in poor shape. On the theoretical level, there has been no clear and unified understanding of what a liberal political philosophy is committed to. Hence, liberalism as a political philosophy has been vulnerable to a charge of internal incoherence. And – perhaps as a result of this – the practical debate about liberal policies has become almost impossible to conduct in a clear and systematic way. Ought a liberal state to accommodate illiberal minority practices? Should providing freedom of choice be the main aim of such a state, or should its emphasis be upon supporting an extensive system of welfare? The term 'liberal' is applied at different times – both by proponents and opponents – to all these different policies. In the resulting cacophony, the chance of identifying a clear and coherent liberal voice is in danger of being lost.

My attempt to bring order to this chaos focuses on the claim that the central duty of the state should be the promotion of individual autonomy. For the sake of clarity, I define 'autonomy' using a rather clunky formulation: autonomy consists in an individual deciding for herself what is valuable and living her life in accordance with that decision. There are other ways of putting it, though. Joseph Raz describes autonomy as an 'ideal of self-authorship'. Wilhelm von Humboldt and John Stuart Mill defended ideals of human individuality which amount to the same. The best expression of the idea, though, is the earliest I've yet found. In 1486, the Italian philosopher Giovanni Pico della Mirandola published his *Oration on the Dignity of Man*, a synthesis of several intellectual traditions – Aristotelianism, Neoplatonism, Humanism, Hermeticism, Kabbalah – and one of the central texts of the Renaissance. Pico imagines God speaking to Adam, and giving him this charter:

"Thou mayest feel as thine own, have as thine own, possess as thine own the seat, the form, the gifts which thou thyself shalt desire ... in conformity thy free judgement, in whose hands I have placed thee, thou art confined by no bounds; and thou wilt fix limits of nature for thyself... Thou, like a judge appointed for being honourable, art the moulder and maker of thyself; thou mayest sculpt thyself into whatever shape thou dost prefer."

So, the first idea has been to take this ideal – the notion that there is a distinctive value in people being able both to shape their own lives and to decide on the standards by which their lives will be judged – and turn it into something analytically respectable.

"AUTONOMY CONSISTS OF AN INDIVIDUAL DECIDING FOR HERSELF WHAT IS VALUABLE AND LIVING HER LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT DECISION."

The second has been to show how this can be made useful in political philosophy. I'm certainly not the first person to try to develop an autonomy-minded liberal theory. But I have gone further than others in working out in detail what the relationship is between the ideal of autonomy and other purportedly foundational liberal values, like neutrality, freedom, and equality. And that has yielded some interesting results. For example, I have argued that the commitment to state promotion of autonomy goes hand in hand with anti-perfectionism (which is a form of neutrality: an anti-

perfectionist believes that the state should not aim to promote things on the grounds that they are valuable for people). Being committed to promoting autonomy implies anti-perfectionism, and vice versa. This poses a dilemma to many political philosophers. Some are committed – as John Rawls was, for example – to both anti-perfectionism and to rejecting the state promotion of autonomy. Others – Joseph Raz, for example – hold the converse commitments, endorsing autonomy and rejecting anti-perfectionism. Assuming I'm correct, these positions are knocked out of contention: liberalism cannot be understood in these ways on pain of contradiction. So, defenders of such theories have a difficult choice. Either they must reject the commitments (anti-perfectionism and autonomy, respectively) which they take to be central to liberalism, or must accept the sort of view that I defend, on the basis that it provides the best and most consistent way of doing justice to the motivations behind its discredited competitors.

I've insufficient space here to give more examples, but the general tactic should be clear (for the details you can read the book, *Autonomy and Liberalism*, which is hopefully coming out soon). Through arguments like this, I establish that an autonomy-minded theory along the lines I define provides the most coherent and attractive way of understanding liberalism. So, the theoretical problem besetting liberalism can be solved: here is a unified and coherent theory which is clear about its foundations and provides the best way of doing justice to the various different intuitive reasons people have had for being liberals while avoiding the sort of inconsistency that they have run into in the past.

Policy implications

Plainly, this also gives the skeleton of a programme whereby the practical problems might be dealt with too. The sorts of theoretical commitments I have laid out in detail have clear policy implications. Some of these are unsurprising. It's



"NO RELIGIOUS OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AFTER THE AUTONOMY-MINDED REVOLUTION"

hardly news that a liberal might be uncomfortable about the conflict between the need to be neutral between religions and the existence of an established church, for example. Others are more surprising. My positions on negative liberty (giving people more options for unconstrained action is only important if they are able to make well-informed choices amongst those options) and on equality (the state should aim to ensure that everyone has equal access to living an autonomous life) place a robust, neutral and state-controlled education system at the very heart of the liberal programme. So, no religious or private schools after the autonomy-minded revolution.

Difficult territory

This is difficult territory, lying as it does on the border between political philosophy, ethics, education and public policy. So, I imagine that the next three years – the duration, that is, of my research fellowship at Corpus – will be spent exploring and mapping it. Some of the positions sketched in what I've written

so far need to be worked out in more detail. Other lines of thought are just beginning. I'm currently starting a second book, provisionally entitled something like *Autonomy and Responsibility in Economic Institutions*. This addresses the relationship between liberalism and economics: I aim to assess different sorts of employment and salary institutions we might have, and try to provide some coherent analysis of the morality of market mechanisms, something which has become much more topical since I started thinking about it back in May 2008. None of these are new topics, of course. However, like the painter who sees a way to making the familiar materials of paint and canvas into something entirely new, I think I can see my way through to saying something new about what a liberal economic policy should be. That is, so long as the inspiration holds out, and I can do justice to the tools of the craft which our rich philosophical tradition has given me.

Ben can be contacted on bac30@cam.ac.uk

(The translation of Pico della Mirandola's *Oration* is by C.G. Wallis, published 1965 by Bobbs-Merrill.)



EVERYONE WILL HAVE THEIR
OWN MEMORIES OF THE MUSIC-
MAKING WITHIN CORPUS



ROSALIND VENTRIS, THIRD YEAR UNDERGRADUATE IN MUSIC

Old Members' Music Association

One of the many privileges of taking up the role of Music Director at Corpus has been the opportunity to become fully involved once again with the music-making within College. Although many developments in the College's musical life have taken place in the twelve years since I graduated I have also been struck by how the fundamentals have not changed (and have indeed not changed for longer than just twelve years). The combination of the formal, excellence-driven and the informal pleasure-driven type of music making is what makes the Corpus musical experience highly memorable and, indeed, inclusive. And, as I witness the latest generation of undergraduates and graduates relishing being part of this, I am constantly reminded of those with whom I shared these experiences as an undergraduate and of those who have shared such music making in Corpus before and since. We were all connected by the musical events which took place during the time of our residency in College but it is easy to lose touch with each other, and with the next generation of musicians passing through College, once we have graduated.

This is why the College would like to form an Old Members' Music Association. Everyone will have their own memories of the music making within Corpus - be they memories of an informal Bene't Club concert in the Master's Lodge (or hosted at Middleton Cottage by Geoffrey Styler), a Bene't Club recital in Hall or Chapel, a musical event in the bar or singing with the chapel choir. You may not have even been a performer, but a loyal supporter of College music.

The aims of the proposed Association will be twofold: to keep you in touch with the current musical activities of the College and to keep you in touch with each other. This will be done in the following ways:

- A termly newsletter sent out to all members of the Music Association.
- A section of the College website with updated information and ways of making contact with other members.
- Reunion events organised within College and elsewhere.

It is intended that the newsletter will carry features about current musical activities within College - including a list of advance dates of concerts involving current College musicians - and news sent in by Old Members about the musical activities they are engaged in including, again, a list of advance dates of any performances they wish to publicise.

The Association would also organise reunion events which would comprise a mixture of music-making events and more informal networking events. It is hoped that the first such event will be held this autumn.

I am conscious of the many musicians from Corpus who have gone on to enjoy illustrious musical careers. Your experiences as professional musicians would be of great interest and value to current students and I hope that, through the Music Association, events such as master classes and workshops might also be arranged.

Music making within Corpus is as strong and vibrant as ever and it would be a pleasure to enable you to share in the ongoing development of music within College as well as hearing about your musical activities.

There will be a small annual subscription fee to the Association, to cover administrative costs. The details of this, plus details of how to join, will be announced soon. At this initial stage I would be grateful to hear from you individually if you would be interested in joining such an Association. All I require at this stage is an expression of interest in the idea to - either via letter to me, c/o the College, or via email: music@corpus.cam.ac.uk. Such an expression of interest will not commit you to joining or being signed up to do something; it will simply allow me to create a mailing list to which further details can be sent in due course. If you have any experience of similar associations or any other thoughts on the matter then I would, of course, be interested in hearing them.

Nick Danks, Director of Music

President of the Cambridge Union

LIVVY POTTS, THIRD YEAR ENGLISH STUDENT

The Cambridge Union: connotations of grandeur, stalking around a chamber, officiating over debates featuring some of the best speakers of a generation. What they fail to mention when you sign the nomination form for President is that – actually – you’ll spend more of your time trying to bluff your way through listed building property law, personally de-thorning 200 pink roses for the approaching event, or looking pretty pathetic trying to single-handedly drag an 8 foot Christmas tree into the entrance.

I became involved in the Cambridge Union by mistake. Sure, I had birthday money and was told to “do something productive with it” before I came up to matriculate; I duly joined, and saw one heated debate on religion. But Cambridge kept me pretty busy: when there was formal hall, a Footlights performance and an impending essay crisis, I failed to notice the opportunities the Union affords. Somehow, I ended up abandoning my mediocre thespian ambitions in favour of student politics.

I started out on House Committee (such a low-down committee it has since been devolved), wore hideous union-branded clothes and learnt how to pour a pint. Oh, and discovered that despite a slightly flagging reputation at the time, the Cambridge Union had potential. There were people who cared more about doing a good job than getting a good job, and with a little bit of TLC, it could be an exciting and progressive central student venue. I endured the rigmarole of elections, swallowed my pride and officially (if temporarily) became “a hack.”

I was elected Senior Officer in my second year, and spent exam term hosting events with the likes of Rob Brydon (who laughed at my joke), Quentin Blake (who drew a picture of me) and Sir Richard Dannatt (who had been President of the Durham Union and wished me luck in my presidential endeavours).

I ran in the first online presidential election, and have the dubious honour of being the only president who has their video manifesto on YouTube, and was the first to crack Facebook. Out came the buzz words: looking back at my campaign, apparently I intended to bring “fun, glamour and first-class debates back to the Union”. Easy. Until I actually got elected, and people started asking me what I was going to do with my term. After the first day of euphoria, and the following three days of comatose sleep (elections were 3 days after my part one exams ended), panic set in: who on earth was I going to invite? Which ents was I going to put on? What colour should we paint the library? Since then, I’ve learnt how to deal with the press (with dignity rather than defensiveness!), manage committees, and source a four-ring gas stove for Antonio Carluccio - although I was deemed too clumsy to light it myself.

During an end of term meeting with my Director of Studies, my DoS requested that we keep Lent Term of our third year free; with dissertation, two papers and extra seminars, only a madman would take up extra-curricular activities. I sheepishly admitted that I may possibly have just been elected Lent term President of the Cambridge Union, but was “sure it wouldn’t take up that much time”. My DoS’ scepticism was well-placed. It turns out she was right, I was mad to take up Presidency in my final year – I received wrinkle cream and dark-circle reducer for Christmas; thanks Mum. It’s difficult combining the two: it’s a bit embarrassing having to ask the MoD if they can ring back, because you’re chasing an essay deadline but I still vehemently believe that Cambridge is what you make of it (although I haven’t quite got over the guilt of missing the essay deadlines) and I’ve learnt skills and had experiences that will stay with me forever.



I quickly learnt that it wasn’t all about black tie dinners and having a pretty swish office (although they are undoubtedly the perks of the job), it was about large-scale organization, managing people and replying to hundreds of emails every day. Despite these everyday challenges, we’ve had a pretty successful term thus far.

Speaking this term are Andrew Gilligan, Loyd Grossman, Libby Purves, Peter Bazalgette, Lembit Opik, and Peter Stringfellow. We’ve seen record membership rates, renovated the entire building, started to reengage with alumni, and hosted the Valentine’s Masquerade, the first successful ball to take place at the union in recent history – for one night, the entire union was transformed and saw Fitzswing, Selwyn Jazz, and Footlights perform, and guests dance the night away in the chamber.

The Fairfax Rhodes collection, our antiquarian book collection, has now taken up residence in our newly renovated library, which we hope will attract visiting scholars and interested members alike. With the appointment of a full-time Bursar and a Director of Development, we have been able to embark upon a large-scale and exciting fundraising scheme, in conjunction with re-engaging with our alumni. We want life membership to mean life membership, and want old members’ input as we continue to improve and advance the Union building. I’m happy to leave the Union in safe hands, with a hugely promising future – and encourage you to come and see how it’s doing.

I became involved in the Union 6 terms ago, and now I only have three debates left before they change the codes to my office, and start checking my membership card when I enter the building. I’m not sure what I’ll do with my time: maybe write an essay or two, or have time for a cup of coffee with a friend, catch up on a year’s worth of Hollyoaks – perhaps I’ll even find more interesting topics of conversation than changing the constitution. But in this time, I’ve been lucky enough to work with a bunch of dynamic and fun people in a time of exciting change at the Cambridge Union, and will take those experiences with me wherever I go. Should you wish to gain more information about the union, re-engage as an alumnus, or become more involved in our fundraising plans, please visit www.cus.org, or email info@cus.org.

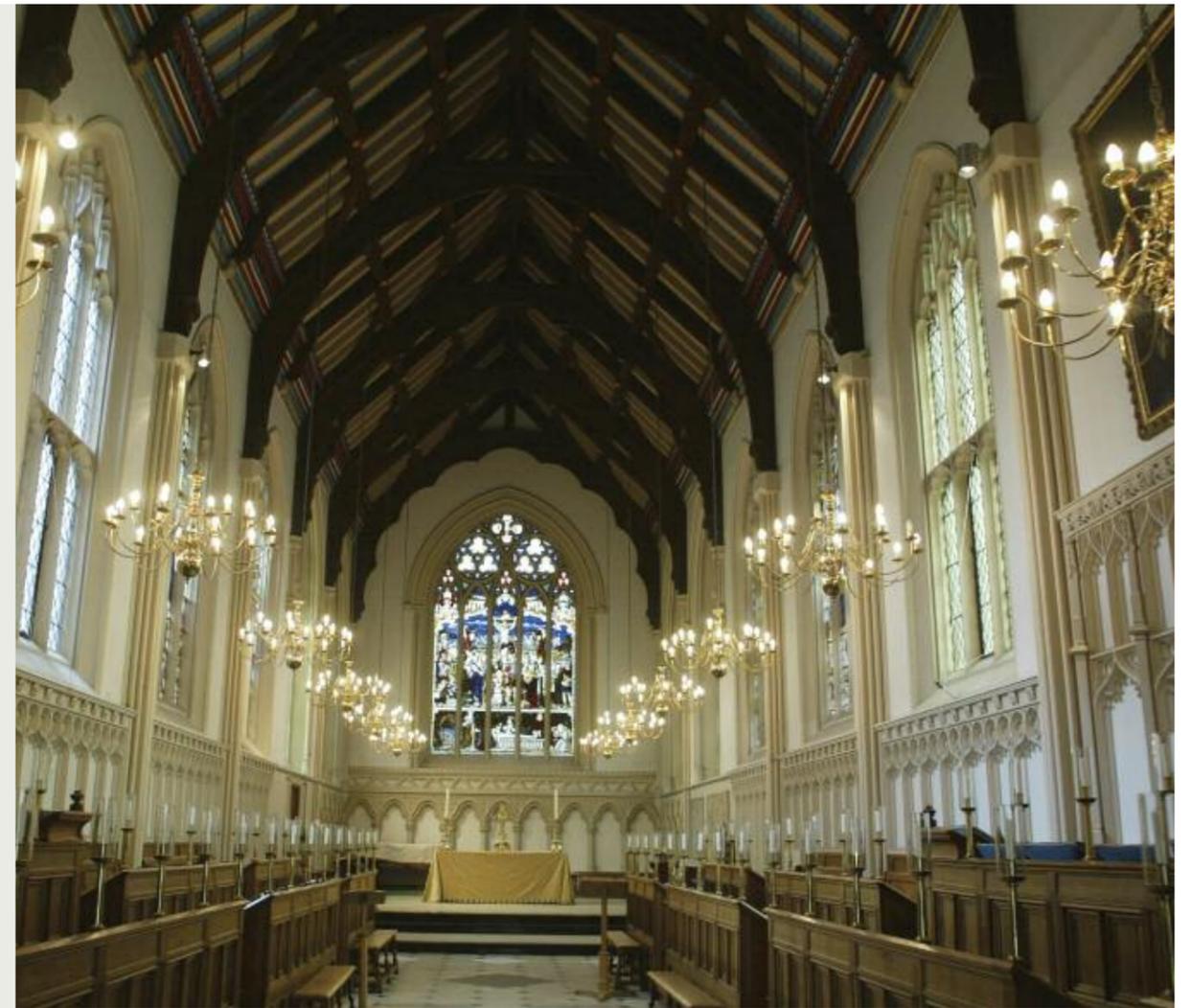
From Nazareth to Cambridge via medieval Muslim Ghazālī

REVD YAZEED SAID, PhD STUDENT AND ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN



On one of my visits to the United States a couple of years ago, I was asked to speak at an Episcopal Church in Texas. The crowd was lively, hospitable, and very keen to hear me come and speak to them. Most of them were Episcopalians, generally of a 'liberal' disposition, but a few were from the local Southern Baptist community, who numbered in their thousands and were anything but 'liberal'. The fact that I was a Palestinian who is also an Israeli citizen, a Christian, and an Anglican/Episcopal priest did not fit their general ideas of the Holy Land, and who lives in it. A Palestinian, they assumed, was naturally a Muslim, and therefore, naturally a terrorist! So the common question that I faced was: 'When did you convert?' which would sound rather strange to the ears of a Palestinian Christian. 'In 33AD', I replied, to which they asked: 'so how old are you then?'

Tracing the origins of the people of the Holy Land today is a complex matter. The account of my Texas visit is a simplification of a subject that is historical, social and intellectual, but is worth pondering as I attempt rather self-consciously to introduce 'my background', as part of the ancient Christian presence in the Holy Land, which goes back to early Christian beginnings. I was born in Nazareth, grew up in Galilee, where I had my elementary and secondary education. Both of my parents were from an Eastern Orthodox Christian background (in other words have been Christian for centuries), but married in the Anglican Church. From Galilee, I went to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to study towards a BA in classical Arabic and English literature. Having been a 'cradle Anglican', I lived and worked at the Anglican Cathedral as a volunteer at the time, and spent my three years in Jerusalem helping as part of the cosmopolitan community of St. George's Cathedral till I graduated, with great opportunities to meet people from all over the world, and from different backgrounds who were either students at the college or stayed at our Cathedral guest house. This exposure, and the discipline of being part of the daily prayer life of the Cathedral directed my vocation to study theology, and examine the possibility of becoming an Anglican priest – a matter that I pursued with the help of, the then, dean of the Cathedral. He in fact took the decision for me, and informed me in a good fatherly fashion what he thought: 'Cambridge would suit you well!' Mustering some humility, I succumbed to his advice, and all the needed papers were



filled, and I came as an affiliated student to Corpus in 1997 to finish my Tripos degree in Theology in 1999. I also trained at Westcott House, having started there the same year that our Chaplain, James Buxton, left. After being ordained a deacon and a priest in Jerusalem, I served my title at St George's Cathedral from the year 2000-2004 – and was made Acting Dean 2002-2004. However, different factors that have accumulated in the course of my years of training, ordination, and work in Jerusalem, have urged me to return to Cambridge and pursue post-graduate research. I came back to Cambridge in 2004 to do my MPhil, and started my PhD course in 2005 with the hope and the plan of completing my thesis in the coming summer. Since then, I have been enjoying years of grace, being part of the College community, as a graduate student, and helping out in the chapel as an honorary assistant chaplain. I can never be grateful enough for all that I have received during my time at Corpus.

My research interests started from my undergraduate years, when I did a paper on my medieval Muslim friend, the great Imam and theologian, Abū Hāmid al-Ghazālī (d.1111), looking at how he relates to Christian themes in his theology. As a scholar, a theologian, a jurist, and a Sufi, Ghazālī has long been praised for his contribution to the process whereby classical Sunni Orthodoxy was established, bringing together different strands of thought, *jāmi' ashtāt al-ʿulūm*, as he is described in Arabic. As such, he was a true legal and theological giant of Islam, whose vision related to the cohesiveness of religion and society. His medieval Arabic is magnetic as one turns page upon page of his text, a matter that made his study an aesthetic, as well as an intellectual and a spiritual fulfilment. I also wanted to pursue his political thought as it would be relevant to the Middle Eastern context, and topical to so much that is being talked about in present day world affairs. He is not known for being a political theorist as such, but is known for being

a major legal theorist of his time, with a legacy that has shaped the thoughts and actions of most Sunni Muslims in the world till the rise of the modern age! Whilst he was unquestionably the normative teacher of pre-modern Islam, celebrated as Hujjat al-Islām, 'the defender of Islamic teaching', his teaching has been to a certain extent sidelined by some parties in modern Islam. Modern Islamic brotherhoods, such as al-Ikhwān al-Muslimūn, prefer Ibn Taymiyya (d. 1328), who held a more rigorous approach to Orthodoxy, and expanded his teaching in the aftermath of the collapse of the Abbasid Caliphate. Ghazālī was of Persian origins; he taught and wrote mainly in Arabic before the final collapse of that Caliphate.

The evident need for reflection on politics and political theories based on law was as much apparent for Ghazālī as it is for us today. This need, felt by Ghazālī and others, suggests that political authority, in the context of certain reflections, especially theological, is not necessarily a

proximity of his own writing on Natural Law to Ghazālī's thought. This closeness outlines the shift integral to my discussion, a shift from a positivist streak of legal thought to a focus upon the significance of the moral basis of legal activity. Here, Finnis' focus is significantly similar to Ghazālī's critique of the jurists of his own day. The similarity, which John Finnis implicitly brings in with his dependence on Thomas Aquinas' thought, reflects Ghazālī's theological sensitivities, (though unlike Ghazālī, Finnis is not a theologian).

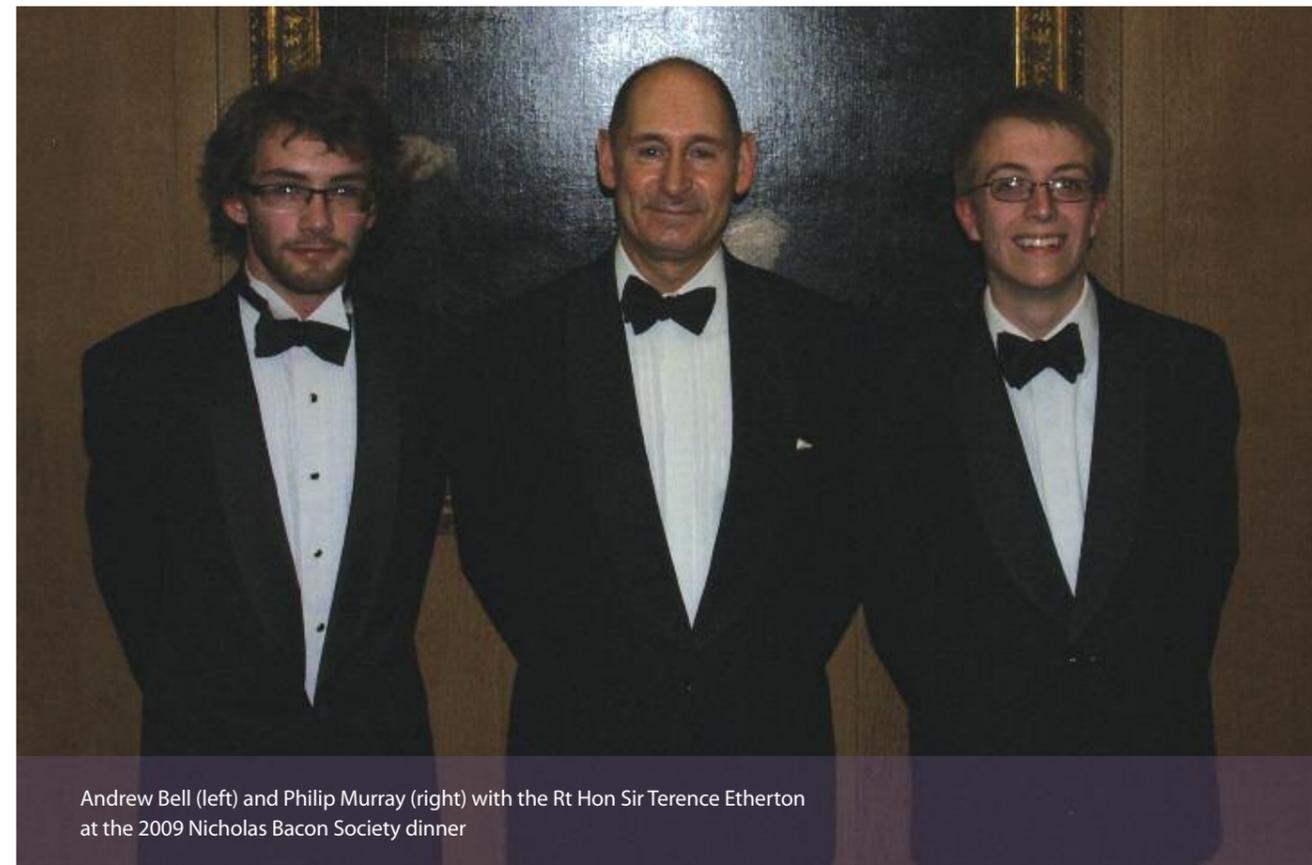
Tangible experience

The personal implications of studying Ghazālī's thought point to a deep sense of appreciation of other faiths as a way of learning more about my own faith, which adds to my tangible experience of living with Muslims and Jews in Jerusalem, and continuing to be an aspiring scholar of Islam with all its beauty and its intricacies. Though it is my hope to be able to develop my academic interests even further, my research has given me the space to think of the significance



congenial topic for those who are in authority. However, as is evident from the writings of Ghazālī, religious believers are not to ignore the question in the context of their faith, showing the pertinence of the latter to the political realms. However, before we allow our feelings to be revolted with preconceived ideas about Islamic authoritarianism, Ghazālī promises to offer many surprises. Apart from looking at Ghazālī's legal thought as a template to his political ideas, examining how he stands vis-à-vis the history of ideas that preceded and formed him, and how he relates to his own context, my thesis supplements the discussion, in the Introduction, by some very recent material, particularly the work of the Oxford Jurist, John Finnis, and the surprising

of making academic learning provide a tangible political difference. I have enjoyed different interfaith encounters here in England, and had been one of two theological secretaries for the Ecumenical Forum for Young Theologians, which we established in Jerusalem, and which had the chance to look hard at interfaith matters in its work and deliberation, bringing together young people, and future leaders from different backgrounds to examine critically the context of religion and politics in the Holy Land. It is also my hope that I would be able to continue to develop such projects that relate to people's own growth towards one another and for the common good.



Andrew Bell (left) and Philip Murray (right) with the Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton at the 2009 Nicholas Bacon Society dinner

The Nicholas Bacon Fund awards its first Bursaries

For many years the Nicholas Bacon Society has maintained links between law students and lawyer alumni through the annual dinner and occasional other events. In 2006, on the initiative of Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton, m 1969, Lord Justice of Appeal and Honorary Fellow of Corpus, these links were built up with a view to strengthening the relationship between current students and lawyer Old Members.

One very important aspect of this was the setting up of the Nicholas Bacon Fund, to provide support for law students who might otherwise have met with financial difficulties as a result of the progressive reduction of student support provided by the state. The Fund has been set up as an independent charity, managed by a board of Trustees and the ultimate target is to reach £1 million, but enough has already been raised to have been able to make substantial

awards this year to two second-year students, Andrew Bell and Philip Murray, photographed here with Sir Terence at the 2009 dinner, to help them with the costs of their studies. As the fund grows, it is hoped that further awards will be made in future years. The College, and the law students, are very grateful to the Old Members who have made this possible, and are looking forward to the further growth of links between alumni and students.

Andrew and Philip were chosen for their excellent results in last year's exams, both obtaining firsts, and on their qualification for financial assistance from the government and the Newton Trust.

If you would like to contribute to this fund please contact Latona Forder-Stent in the Development Office for further details. lfs26@cam.ac.uk 01223 339718.

Boat Club Reunion weekend



Corpus Christi College Boat Club warmly invites you to join its current members for a weekend of Boat Club reunion events. The aim of this weekend is to reunite crews of yesteryear and, at the same time raise much needed funds for the refurbishments of the boathouse, additional boat workshop facilities and a new scull.

The event will take place across Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September, with limited accommodation available in College for Friday night. The reunion dinner will take place on the Friday evening, with the Saturday dedicated to a day of rowing, rounded off with the official re-opening of our refurbished boathouse. Alumni are very welcome to attend either event independently, but we hope you will join us for both. Spouses and partners are also more than welcome. The rest of the weekend will be available for you to take part in the University's 800th Anniversary Alumni Weekend.

This year's rowing has had a spectacular start with the men's VIII coming 22nd in the Fairbairns, the highest they have been in many years. This was significantly aided by 'Trading Places', the new VIII bought thanks to the generosity of Old Member donations and corporate sponsorship from Barclays Capital. The Boat Club is undertaking essential refurbishment work to the fabric of the boathouse, in the form of improved provision of workshop facilities and boat racking. This work is being jointly undertaken by Wolfson, Sidney Sussex, Girton and Corpus Christi who are each raising an equal share of the cost. The Club is also looking to replace one of its ageing sculls with a new model to encourage novice and senior rowers alike to learn the art of sculling.

If you would like to attend this event, please let the Development Office know by emailing: development@corpus.cam.ac.uk. Further details and a booking form will also be available on the College website: www.corpus.cam.ac.uk.



PROFESSOR KAROL SIKORA AND ELIZABETH WINTER



DR BRIAN HAZLEMAN AT THE DINNER



MEMBERS OF THE LEWIS SOCIETY COMMITTEE



DIFEI WANG WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEWIS SOCIETY

The Lewis Society of Medicine

ARCHIBALD CLARK-KENNEDY LECTURE AND ANNUAL DINNER 2009

The Lewis Society of Medicine was created in April 2007 following an initiative from clinical and pre-clinical College members. The Society's vision is to promote medicine through a number of diverse activities which will support current students, maintain and reinforce ties with older members, and promote medical science to the rest of the undergraduate and postgraduate communities.

The first Archibald Clark-Kennedy Lecture was given on Saturday, 21st February 2009. Archibald Clark-Kennedy was appointed as the first Director of Medical Studies at Corpus Christi in 1919, a post which he held until 1958. He was a physician at the Royal London Hospital and Dean of the London Hospital Medical School from 1936 to 1953. The inaugural lecture, given by Professor Karol Sikora, is the first in an annual series on a topic of current medical interest.

Karol Sikora (m1966) is Medical Director of CancerPartnersUK which is creating the largest UK cancer network as a series of joint ventures with independent sector hospitals and NHS Trusts. He is Professor of Cancer Medicine and honorary Consultant Oncologist at Imperial College School of Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, London. He chairs the Scientific Advisory Board of SourceBioscience PLC, Britain's leading cancer diagnostic company. He has recently been appointed Dean of Britain's first independent Medical School at the University of Buckingham. He is Senior Adviser to the WHO Cancer Programme and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Professor Sikora's lecture was entitled "Cancer - a disease of our time". He stated that as we have learned to deal with infectious diseases and dramatically reduced the mortality of heart disease we are living longer. There are huge societal pressures resulting from a much higher prevalence of cancer as results of cancer treatment improve. New technologies need new delivery systems and create financial and ethical challenges.

In the future refinements of current technologies and techniques – in imaging, radiotherapy and surgery – together with the availability of targeted drugs will make

cancer more controllable. Cure will still be sought, but will not be the only satisfactory outcome.

Patients will be closely monitored after treatment, but fear that cancer will definitely kill, still prevalent in the early years of the twenty-first century, will be replaced by an acceptance that many forms of cancer are a consequence of age.

Looking into the future is fraught with difficulties. The economic analysis of the impact of developments in cancer care is difficult. The greatest benefit will be achieved simply by assuring that the best care possible is on offer to the most patients. Technologies are developing fast, particularly in imaging and the exploitation of the human genome leading to personalised and rational treatment. Well-informed patients, with adequate funds, will ensure that they have rapid access to the newest and the best treatment – wherever it is in the world. Innovation will inevitably bring more inequality. The outcome of care differs today between socio-economic groups and will continue to do so. It is the role of governments to ensure health equity for all constituents.

Prior to the lecture Patrons and Trustees of the Society met. In the coming year the Society aims to continue providing opportunities for academic exchange, involving outside speakers, current students and alumni of the College. It is planned to continue an annual dinner and garden party to promote social interaction between all members of the Society. It is the intention of the Society to build on the current activities with the intention of establishing a support fund to promote medical education and research, and a career guidance network by which current students and junior doctors can benefit from advice from more senior members of the profession. This will require continued enthusiasm and support from benefactors.

Dr Brian Hazleman, Fellow

If you would like to make a donation or find out more please contact: Latona Forder-Stent in the Development Office on 01223 339718 lfs26@cam.ac.uk.



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